

Number of Respondents: Loan Requests=44; Request for voluntary Repayments=157.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 1 hour each.

Total Burden Hours: 201.

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: 0.

Total annual costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): 0.

Description: Title XII Section 1201 of the Social Security Act provides that the Governor of any State may at any time request that funds be transferred from the account of that State to the Federal unemployment account in repayment of part or all of the balance of advances made to that State under Section 1201.

Theresa M. O'Malley,

Acting Departmental Clearance Officer.

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**Bureau of International Labor Affairs;
U.S. National Administrative Office;
North American Agreement on Labor
Cooperation; Notice of Determination
Regarding Review of Submission
#9602**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Labor.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. National Administrative Office (NAO) gives notice that on December 10, 1996, Submission #9602 was accepted for review insofar as it pertains to the issues of freedom of association and the right to organize, including the failure to insure that labor tribunals are impartial and independent, the failure to ensure that labor tribunal proceedings are fair, equitable and transparent, and the failure to effectively enforce labor law. The allegations of the submission that relate to the issue of minimum employment standards, including overtime pay, were not accepted for review. The submission was filed with the NAO on October 11, 1996 by the Communications Workers of America (CWA), the Union of Telephone Workers of Mexico (STRM), and the Federation of Unions of Goods and Services Companies (FESEBS) and concerns the operations of an employer in Cananea, State of Sonora, Mexico.

Article 16(3) of the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) provides for the review of labor law matters in Canada and Mexico by the NAO. The objective of the review of the submission will be to gather information to assist the NAO to better understand and publicly report on the Government of Mexico's compliance

with the objectives set forth in Articles 3 and 5 of the NAALC.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 10, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Irasema T. Garza, Secretary, U.S. National Administrative Office, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room C-4327, Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: (202) 501-6653 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On October 11, 1996 the CWA, STRM, and FESEBS filed a submission with the NAO concerning allegations involving the operations of an employer in Cananea, State of Sonora, Mexico. The allegations of the submission relate to freedom of association and the right to organize and minimum employment standards.

Article 16(3) of the NAALC provides for the review of labor law matters in Canada and Mexico by the NAO. "Labor law" is defined in Article 49 of the NAALC to include freedom of association and the right to organize and minimum employment standards.

The procedural guidelines for the NAO, published in the Federal Register on April 7, 1994, 59 FR 16660, specify that, in general, the Secretary of the NAO shall accept a submission for review if it raises issues relevant to labor law matters in Canada or Mexico and if a review would further the objective of the NAALC. However, the guidelines permit the NAO to decline to review a submission if, inter alia, the submission is not sufficiently specific to determine the nature of the request and permit an appropriate review.

Submission #9602 relates to labor law matters in Mexico. A review would appear to further the objectives of the NAALC, as set out in Article 1, which include improving working conditions and living standards in each Party's territory; promoting, to the maximum extent possible, the labor principles set out in Annex 1 of the NAALC, among them freedom of association and the right to organize and minimum employment standards; promoting compliance with, and effective enforcement by each Party of, its labor law; and fostering transparency in the administration of labor law. Regarding minimum employment standards, however, it appears to the NAO that the submission is not sufficiently specific to determine the nature of the request or to permit appropriate review; therefore, review of that issue would not be appropriate.

Accordingly, the submission has been accepted for review with respect to the issues of freedom of association and the

right to organize but not the issue of minimum employment standards. The NAO's decision is not intended to indicate any determination as to the validity or accuracy of the allegations contained in the submission.

The objective of the review will be to gather information to assist the NAO to better understand and publicly report on the Government of Mexico's compliance with the obligations agreed to under Articles 3 and 5 of the NAALC. The review will focus on compliance with, and effective enforcement of, labor laws that guarantee the right of association and the right to organize freely and prohibit the dismissal of workers because of efforts to exercise those rights. The review also will focus on the impartiality and independence of tribunals that conduct or review labor proceedings; and the fairness, equitability and transparency of labor tribunal proceedings. The review will be completed, and a public report issued, within 120 days, or 180 days if circumstances require an extension of time, as set out in the procedural guidelines of the NAO.

Signed at Washington, D.C. on December 10, 1996.

Irasema T. Garza,

Secretary, U.S. National Administrative Office.

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**Employment and Training
Administration**

[TA-W-32,608 and NAFTA-01149]

**Crown Pacific Limited Partnership,
Redmond, OR; Notice of Affirmative
Determination Regarding Application
for Reconsideration**

By letter of October 8, 1996, the Lumber and Sawmill Workers, Local 1017, requested administrative reconsideration of the Department of Labor's Notices of Negative Determination Regarding Eligibility to Apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance (TA-W-32,608) and NAFTA-Transitional Adjustment Assistance (NAFTA-01149) for workers of the subject firm. The denial notice for TA-W-32,608 was signed on September 17, 1996, and published in the Federal Register on October 1, 1996 (61 FR 51303). The denial notice for NAFTA-01149 was signed on September 13, 1996, and published in the Federal Register on October 1, 1996 (61 FR 51304).